

REMARKS

The Applicants wish to express appreciation to Examiner Miller for her courtesy during a series of telephone calls in August, 2005, during which time the Applicants' response to the Office Action dated April 13, 2005 was discussed.

Claims 29-39 are pending in the application. Claims 29-36 have been allowed. Claims 37-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gammon in view of Gill. Claim 29 has been amended. Claims 32 and 37-39 have been canceled. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application in view of the amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 37-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gammon in view of Gill. Claims 37-39 have been canceled, rendering their rejection moot.

The present invention is directed to a system for simulating a crowd of real people seated in stadium or auditorium style seating and viewing a particular event in a foreground scene when recording a scene in a visual recording media production. The system uses a plurality of inflatable life-sized humanoid figures that are placed in the background of the scene to be recorded, wherein each of the inflatable life-sized humanoid figures is contiguously connected to another of the inflatable life-sized humanoid figures by one or more narrow tubular sections situated between adjacent humanoid figures which allows inflating gas to fill an entire line of humanoid figures. Each figure represents the general shape of an upper portion of a real humanoid, and each figure may be given a unique appearance as compared to the other figures, either by markings directly on the figures, or by adding apparel to the figures. Each inflatable figure also includes a substantially flat bottom portion for supporting the figure in seats such as stadium or auditorium style seating. When a large number of inflated humanoid figures are seated in the background scene in close proximity to each other, the figures simulate a crowd of real people viewing the particular event in the foreground scene. The figures may then be visually recorded in a manner that does not capture a clear image of the inflated plurality of inflatable life-sized humanoid figures as compared to the foreground scene.

Claims 29-36 have been allowed. Nevertheless, allowed claim 29 was amended to remove the limitation of left and right arm members, and dependent claim 32 has been canceled because it is no longer relevant after the removal of the limitation of left and right arm members in claim 29. Applicants believe this does not affect the allowability of remaining claims 29-31 and 33-36, as it is believed that the Examiner's allowance of these claims is based on the novelty and non-obviousness of the limitation that each of the inflatable life-sized humanoid figures is contiguously connected to another of the inflatable life-sized humanoid figures by one or more narrow tubular sections situated between adjacent humanoid figures which allows inflating gas to fill an entire line of humanoid figures. Applicants believe that this limitation is not found in the prior art, including the prior art considered thus far by the Examiner.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If, for any reason, the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 892-5752 to discuss any steps necessary to place the application in condition for allowance.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing Docket No. 559852000101.

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Respectfully submitted,

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